

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

YOUNG MEN

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To My Young Friends of the Aaronic Priesthood,

I would like to thank each of you for taking the time and making the effort to get to the top of your mountain today to participate in the 2009 On Target event. Can you imagine the planning that has taken place for this event to occur? Some of your troops, teams, and crews will be able to see and signal others. Some of you may not be able to locate another unit as you send out your signals. Do not despair if that is the case. You know who you are and what you have accomplished to be where you are. This is one of the great lessons of life. We are never alone. We are surrounded by a loving Heavenly Father, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, our priesthood and Scouting leaders, our families, and our friends. Many of these roles will be reversed and someday each of you will be priesthood leaders, husbands, and fathers. The training and experiences that you are enjoying now will prepare you for the future.


President Thomas S. Monson was set apart and ordained the 16th President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on February 3, 2009. When asked about the difference in being a counselor to a prophet instead of being the Prophet his answer was, "It's lonely at the top, but I feel that I am never alone." He spoke of the power of prayer and said, "Heavenly Father is always there. I rely on Him. I know what it is like to have Him lead me. When I come up against a barrier, I say Lord, where do I go? I always follow the promptings I receive. I never postpone a prompting."

I encourage each of you, my young friends of the Aaronic Priesthood to never postpone a prompting and to live the very best lives that you can so that our Heavenly Father will always be with you. Honor the priesthood that you bare. Refrain from anything that would be damaging to your bodies. Protect every woman, young and old, who is a part of your life. We were so happy to see the Young Women of the church add "Virtue" as one of their values. Brethren, we need to support every Sister by taking their example and living the most virtuous life that we can live.

I would love to tell each one of you how much I love you. President Hinckley described you as the "Chosen Generation". You have been preserved to live at this time, one of the most treacherous times in the history of the earth. The Adversary has never been busier. He will make "mountains out of mole hills" in your lives if you do not avoid him and his evil ways. Each of you can accomplish anything that you set out to do. Do not let Satan get in your way. Listen to the prophets and obey their teachings. This will keep you on the trail and will allow you to live with your family forever.

God bless each of you as your progress through your lives and climb to greater heights. I pray for you daily. I know that you can do it.

Your Friend in Scouting and the Priesthood,


J. Floyd Hatch
Past Board Member, Young Men General Presidency